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Volume 39, No. 12 "Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain" December 2020/January 2021

Remembering Colonel Milford Howard

by Kelly Leavitt

One of the most interesting historical characters who has impacted the Mentone area is Colonel Milford Howard. Certainly, many of our readers already know of this influential man. For others, though, a review of Elizabeth S. Howard's biography, *The Vagabond Dreamer*, serves as an introduction to this man's life. The author passed away on November 2, 2020. (She led an accomplished life as well—see her obituary on page 25). The book's bibliography lists hundreds of sources which the author used to richly illustrate a story that will likely interest anyone who lives in our community.

Had she not dedicated years to research and writing, the colonel could have fallen into historical obscurity, even though his life experience was so robust, one could easily fill many books with its details. Thanks to E.S. Howard, we have a rich understanding of his life, from birth to death. This article, with its limited space, will focus on Colonel Howard's years in the Mentone area, where he arrived almost 100 years ago.

Milford Wriarson Howard was born near Rome, GA, on December 18, 1862. His childhood was spent helping his farmer father, so he was only able to complete about 12 months of formal schooling. His photographic memory and love for reading, though, allowed his imagination to carry him beyond the limited confines of his daily life.

The Howard family moved to Arkansas when young Milford was five years old. They settled in Old Jackson, where his father served as the local justice of the peace. In 1875, 13-year-old Milford witnessed two lawyers argue a case in the local gin, where he was



Milford W. Howard, 1890s

working at the time. As his father sat upon a wool sack and spectators sat on a pile of cotton seed, Milford became enthralled by the lawyers' use of language and logic and vowed that day to become a lawyer.

Six years later, that goal was complete. Milford inventively found a way to borrow some law books, and a lawyer agreed to help him prepare for the bar

exam. In 1882, at the young age of 19, he succeeded in securing a place on the bar. (At the time, lawyers were given the title "Colonel" and Howard was referred to as "colonel" the rest of his life.) The next year, he married Sarah "Sallie" Lankford.

Howard began his practice of law in Fort Payne in the years leading up to the town's "boom days." He was appointed the official county solicitor at the age of 24, and for many years he was deeply involved in the town's affairs. E.S. Howard details these vibrant days in Fort Payne well. Colonel Howard was a man who she called "a compulsive speculator." Like many others, he made and lost a fortune during the boom days.

He began touring the country making speeches to create additional income. His facility with languages served him well. He was once deemed "the greatest platform speaker on the American continent." An ardent Populist, he was elected to his first of two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1884.

By 1919, he could have retired in comfort to his farm south of Valley Head. Never a man to sit still, though, he left his law practice and enrolled in a correspondence school to learn the craft of short story writing. He decided California was the place for him to be, so he and Sallie moved to Los Angeles.

In 1921, his novel, *Peggy Ware*, was published. The

(continued on page 6)

Mentone Community Christmas Tree

by Cynthia Stinson

This year, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Mentone will be different. In keeping with the spirit of community and Christmas, we will have the tree in its usual spot on the corner of AL Highway 117 and County Road 89. My daughter, Hannah, and I will erect the tree and put lights on it by December 5.

Although we are not having a gathering for the lighting, we do invite everyone to stop by with your family and place ornaments on the tree. If you don't have an ornament, there will be a box of ornaments and a pen by the tree.

Make sure you secure your ornament with a pipe cleaner or wire, so the wind won't take them away.

We would like everyone to take a selfie of their family and write a Christmas wish or dedicate the ornament to loved ones no longer with us, or to someone you are thinking of. I have created a public Facebook page—"Mentone Alabama Christmas Events"—where you can post your photo with a message. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can email the photo to mentonechristmastree@gmail.com and I will post the photo for you. Please include

your family's name and your dedication.

The Facebook page can also be used to post photos of your home Christmas decorations and families, to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, or to announce any Mentone Christmas events for your organization.

This year, more than ever, our tree represents a sign of HOPE for the coming New Year!

Thank you and Merry Christmas from all of us at the Mentone Inn and Fontastic Foods.

Cynthia Stinson is the innkeeper of the Mentone Inn.



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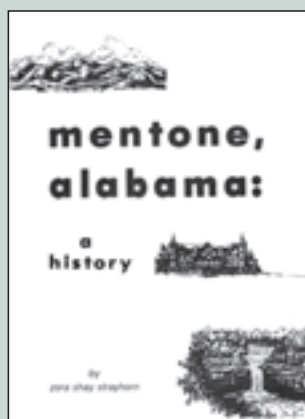
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Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

Do you have a story idea?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com



**Learn about the
History of Mentone**

**Zora Strayhorn's book,
*Mentone, Alabama: A
History*, is for sale at
Mentone Market.
\$15; proceeds benefit
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Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Our family Thanksgiving gathering was much different this year—just the immediate family. However, there remain many blessings for which we should be thankful. We have all seen the images of people around the country waiting in long lines for food. The food bank at Saint Joseph's is serving more families and thus far has been able to keep up with demand. In addition to what the church provides, local farms and the USDA are helping. As always, Mentone churches know people in the community who are in need and provide assistance.

The bridge is open! Work remains to be done on the shoulders before the final paving. Over the years, ALDOT hosted several public involvement meetings at the Moon Lake Gym. They were all well attended. I feel ALDOT listened to the Mentone community and the design of the new bridge is a testament to that. ALDOT invited the Mentone police car to be the first over when the bridge opened. I completely enjoyed that experience!

Because of COVID, the town did not have our usual Veterans Day observance. We are thankful to all veterans for their service. I recently finished *The Longest Winter* by Alex Kershaw. It is the story of a platoon that fought off the initial German advance in the Battle of Bulge, giving other units time to organize and respond. The platoon was forced to surrender



when they ran out of ammunition. Several were severely wounded. The book chronicles their experiences in the German POW camps and their eventual liberation. The conditions they endured were horrific. Anyone who reads this book will hesitate to ever complain about the little things in life that annoy us.

COVID shut down Town Hall in late November. Town Clerk Kristen Emory and I attended a meeting with an engineer about a grant application. The next day he did not feel well and tested positive. Soon Kristen began having symptoms. We were both tested. Kristen was positive and I was negative. Kristen is recovering (saying you don't want to get this virus) and I am in quarantine. Diane from Ft. Payne Water next door also tested positive and that office is closed. We are hoping Kristen will be back in Town Hall in early December.



Letter from the Editor

Preparing this issue of *The Groundhog* has reminded me of how our community has fared during the course of 2020. Area residents have risen to the challenge with a spirit of perseverance, generosity, and creativity. Which, of course, is not surprising at all...

Here's to the hope that 2021 brings back the sense of "normalcy" we all crave. I know we all look forward to safely hosting and attending events such as birthdays, weddings, festivals, concerts, and gatherings of friends and family.

In studying the life of Colonel Howard, I was reminded more than once how difficult life could

be 100 years ago. It somehow helps make the hardships the pandemic has imposed on us seem more like inconveniences. We each enjoy the fruits of the labors of our ancestors. Let's all take a moment this season and feel some gratitude for that. Driving along the brow on Scenic Highway, or passing the lovely and utterly unique church-with-a-rock-in-it, or conveniently hopping up the mountain on Wade Gap—we have "the colonel" to thank for all this.

I hope you and your family enjoy a season of warmth and comfort, and of peace and joy. May 2021 bring all good things to you! —Kelly



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

I hope everyone enjoys our combined December/January Holiday issue of *The Groundhog*. Kelly needs (and deserves) a little time off over the holidays to wind down and spend some quality time with her family. Let's all try to do the same, but please don't forget to follow proper COVID safety guidelines—we don't want

a large outbreak up here on the mountain! Concerning 2020, I vote we get a "do over". (Otherwise known as a mulligan.)

Hopefully, 2021 will be a year in which we can rebound in so many respects: economically, emotionally and spiritually. Meanwhile, when out doing some Christmas shopping, please try to support

our local businesses and merchants as much as possible. They are here for you and need you! Happy Holidays from the MAPA team to you and yours.

Mark Hoffman is the president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Join MAPA Today

Help us preserve Mentone's history and impact its future.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

One of MAPA's key missions is supporting local organizations and projects which seek to improve the quality of life in Mentone. Financial grants are made possible through MAPA

memberships, donations, sponsorships, *Groundhog* advertising and subscriptions, and by hosting annual spring and fall festivals which feature handmade arts and crafts and live music.

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MAPA was organized in 1982. It is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

NOVEMBER WAS A MONTH OF GIVING IN MENTONE!



Mike Campbell, owner of the Mentone Inn, hosted the Jack Campbell Classic, a golf tournament he started five years ago after his father Jack passed away. As the story goes, the last time Jack played golf, he was standing on a berm, took a swing, and fell. He looked up and—to everyone's amusement—said, "I know what I did wrong!" So, the theme of the Jack Campbell Classic is, *I Know What I Did Wrong: A Hero's Journey*.

The two-day tourney was played at Lil Mole Run in Mentone, one of the last places Jack played golf. Mike invited friends, family, and co-workers to stay at the Inn and at Winston Place in Valley Head. "It was a weekend of family, fun, friends, and remembrance of a good man," said Cynthia, who co-organizes the annual event with Mike.

Each year, donations collected from the guests are given to a local non-profit. This year, the funds were given to Mentone's volunteer fire department (the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District) and to DeSoto Rescue Squad.

Pictured: L to R: NLMFPD President Bob Crow, Cynthia Stinson, Fire Chief Joseph Lee, NLMFPD Treasurer Vicky Patrick



Little River Hardware sold raffle tickets for hardware boxes filled with goods—one for women and one for men—and donated the proceeds (over \$500) to Moon Lake School.

Pictured: L to R: Moon Lake Elementary School Principal Mary Lance and Little River Hardware Co-owner Frances Lindsey.



On November 6, Lookout Mountain Community Meals Foundation dropped meals off for the folks who work at Mentone Town Hall and the Fort Payne Water Department office next door. Fontana's restaurant (Fort Payne) provided a delicious hot meal and Mentone Market provided homemade cookies.

Pictured: L to R: front row—Linda Fontana, Rayne Zabava (LMCMF); back row—Mentone Policeman Lamar Bray, Mentone Town Clerk Kristen Emory, Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond, and Mentone Police Chief Gene McKee

Mentone Mayor & Council Members Sworn in on 11/2



Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter swears in Mayor Rob Hammond



Above: Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter swears in Mentone Council Members David Allgood and John Paul Verdon. (The little boy in the photo is David's son, Will.)

Right: L to R: Mentone Council Members Ray Padgett, Hobson Kirby, and Gerald Bailey



Hammondville's New Town Clerk



graduated from Valley Head in 1989. "I graduated high school with the mayor, so he knows my character," she said with a chuckle. She is married to John Johnson. "When we were first married, my husband moved me to Rainsville. After three years, I

Hammondville's new town clerk is Kimberly Worthey Johnson, who was appointed at the town council meeting in November. Kimberly was born and raised in Mentone. She went to Moon Lake School and

told him he'd either have to move me back home or to the beach. I'm glad we're back home." Kimberly's father, Eddie, was police chief in Mentone for many years. He had a massive heart attack and passed away when she was 14. Her mother, Gail (Mentone's famous "cookie" lady), is now married to Milton Chambers. Kimberly and John's sons, Keegan and Brody, followed their mother's footsteps and both attended school at Moon Lake and at Valley Head, where they both played football. Keegan graduated from high school in 2019. He is attending Northeast Alabama Community College and is employed part time with UPS. Brody is in 10th grade at Valley Head High School.



Judge Shaunathan Bell swears in Hammondville Council Member Tammy Brown



Judge Shaunathan Bell swears in Hammondville Council Member Jennifer Barker



Judge Shaunathan Bell swears in Hammondville Council Member Felicia Harrison



Judge Shaunathan Bell swears in Hammondville Council Member Johnny Ferguson



Judge Shaunathan Bell swears in Hammondville Council Member Trey Moore



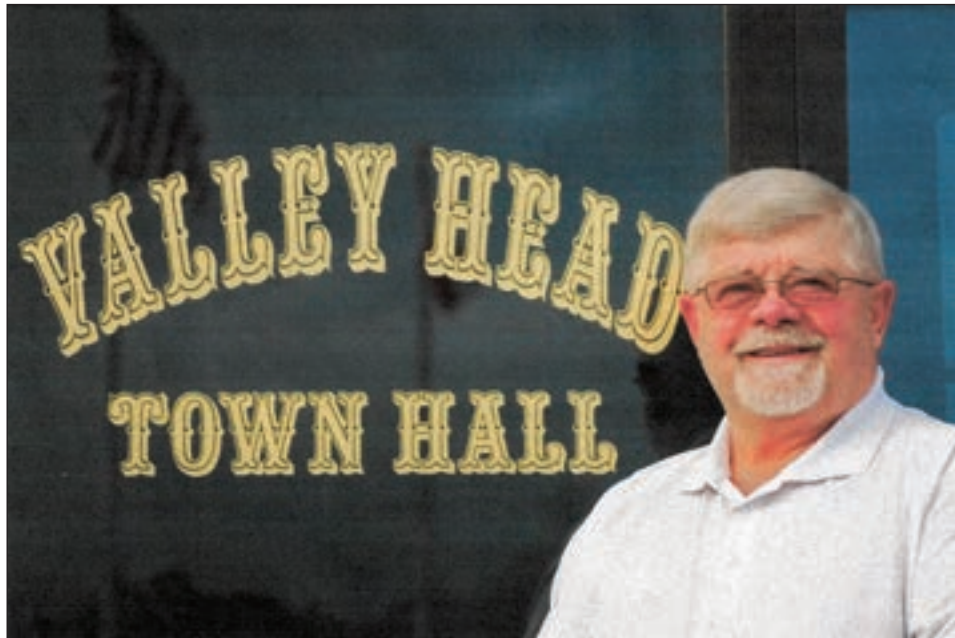


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Meet Mike Key, Valley Head's New Mayor by Kelly Leavitt



Valley Head's new mayor, Mike Key, was sworn in on Monday, November 2, by Alabama Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter. Mike has a long history of serving Valley Head and looks forward to continuing to be of service.

He and his wife, Eiko, moved to Valley Head in 1978. Shortly after, he was appointed to the town council. Since then, he has been both appointed and elected to council terms. He has also served on Valley Head's water board and zoning committee.

"Having been on the council," he said, "I have a working knowledge of the mayoral duties. And whenever I might need help, Debra Rhodes, our town clerk, helps me out."

Mike is a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Vietnam War. During those years, he met his wife, who was born and raised in Japan. They have now been married for 48 years. Their oldest son, Thomas, is also a veteran of the Marine Corps and currently serves as a sergeant with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department. Their son, Tony, is the plant manager at Emerson Electric in Rainsville. Both sons graduated from Valley Head High School.



Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter swears in Mayor Mike Key

Mike and Eiko are both retired. For 23 years, she worked at V.I. Prewett in Fort Payne, where she sewed lace on socks. She's currently involved in volunteer work with a variety of groups as well as their church. Mike worked in industrial maintenance at

Keystone Foods in Gadsden when he retired, but spent many years working as a fabricator at plants in Chattanooga and Rainsville. These days, he still enjoys making things, especially with wood. He tends to donate the pieces he makes.

The new mayor says, "There are some things we got started and I'd like to follow through on them if possible. It's time."

He plans to work on drawing manufacturing and new business to the town, and to explore ways to draw people into the town as they pass by on Highway 117.

"Valley Head is a quiet little community," said Mike. "It's a close-knit community. I'd like to see it become even closer." He hopes to find ways to get people to get together more often. "Let's start helping each other. If people are in need, let's get together and help that neighbor."

"I try to extend a helping hand," Mike said. "My wife does also. I'd like to get everybody involved in 'passing it forward'. If you can, help somebody—and then if that person can, they would help somebody."

Mike said, "We've got three new council members who were elected this year. I'm hoping they bring some good thoughts and new ideas to the table. I felt good about everybody that was running for council, even those who didn't get elected. They're all good people. They all have a desire to service, which is kind of hard to find nowadays."

The Valley Head Town Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

"If you have comments or concerns," Mike said, "feel free to stop by the town hall. I plan on being there every day. Not necessarily all day, because I also have other things to do. But I'll be there every day. And if I'm not there, I live just a few blocks away, so I can be there within minutes."

In conclusion, he said, "I want to do what we can do for the betterment of Valley Head and the residents of Valley Head."



Above: L to R—Valley Head Council Member Adele Phillips; Council Member Karen Vest; Mayor Mike Key; Rep Nathaniel Ledbetter, Council Member Jack Martin; and Council Member Chris Busby.

Right: L to R—Valley Head Council Member Dean Freeman, Mayor Mike Key



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Milford W. Howard (continued from page 1)

story took place in Buck's Pocket (now a state park) on Sand Mountain, where the story's heroine started a school for destitute mountain children. In 1923, he wrote another book, *The Bishop of the Ozarks*. Before it was published, it was made into a silent film. As a man who had many interests and wore many hats, Howard played two of the lead roles and was one of the film's producers.

The story of Peggy Ware and her "free school available to all mountain children" stayed with him, though. He told Sallie about his dream. "Cautiously she raised the question of how he would pay for his school. 'On faith,' he answered, 'the same as Peggy Ware did.'

He had sent a copy of Peggy Ware to his cousin Stella Vivian Harper, of Georgia, who wrote to him saying that she herself had dreamed of establishing a similar school and would be ready to help "at any time."

Sallie was enjoying her life in southern California, where she sold real estate, and she chose to not accompany him on his return to Fort Payne on June 18, 1923. On his arrival, he immediately made arrangements with young Frank Kirk, 14 (who later married Mabel Crow of Mentone), to travel by wagon to Buck's Pocket so he could find the site of his new school. On seeing the terrain, though, Howard realized it was unsuitable to his needs.

A week later, Stella Vivian Harper took a train to Fort Payne and soon after, they discovered "Little Mountain"—an "hourglass-shaped" ridge in the Alpine area south of Mentone where the elevation soars to over 1,800 feet. "There in the middle of the forest above the western brow of the mountain," wrote E.S. Howard, "they visualized the school buildings... and they dreamed great dreams together. Their dream of a 'simple 'Peggy Ware' school developed into



Dedication Day at the Master School in September, 1923. Colonel Howard stands at top of rock.

an elaborate plan for a series of hundreds of schools throughout the Appalachians. The whole network would comprise 'the Master Schools.'"

The pair of dreamers moved quickly. With less than \$100, Howard secured enough credit from landowners to purchase hundreds of acres. His property spanned from Little River toward the western brow, including Little Mountain.

On July 16, the Master School was incorporated. A week later, on July 23, the first underbrush was cleared on the site where the schoolhouse would be built, in an area strewn with massive boulders. When the stone structure was complete, work began on two dormitories and a dining hall. All of the buildings were built with materials gleaned from the land itself. It was announced that the first term of school would begin in September.

The school was dedicated on Sunday, September 2, 1923, to great fanfare. One thousand people come

from miles around and congregated at the base of Sentinel Rock. Alabama Governor William Brandon was the featured speaker of the day. The last speaker of day was Congressman Miles C. Allgood (whose grandson David now serves on Mentone's town council).

The day yielded \$100 in cash donations and over \$700 in pledges. Colonel Howard was thrilled with receiving even this meager sum. He and Vivian paid the workmen and bought groceries for the school.

Although the school buildings remained

unfinished and unfurnished, classes began the following week with over 30 students. The faculty was sparse but devoted. The school had received enough attention that much support was offered. A Fort Payne dentist offered free dental work and a Valley Head physician offered free medical care. Farm food was donated by mountain residents. In order that the school could become self-sustaining, fruit trees were donated by nurseries and a cow named "Jersey" was donated so the children could have milk.

The children were all willing students and helpers, and they spent their days both learning and working to clear land and plant crops. "There were spelling bees," E.S. Howard writes, "and debates, kangaroo courts and plays." A basketball court was constructed in the fall and a tennis court was added in the spring.

Visitors came from all over to see this school which

(continued on page 7)



L to R: The Master School's boys' dormitory; the dining hall; and the girls' dormitory. Photo credit: AP, courtesy of Joel Leonard



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Milford W. Howard (continued from page 7)

had emerged from the wilderness. This was impressive in no small measure because the rural roads of the time were sparse and often unpassable. During this same era, A.A. Miller was building the dam at DeSoto Falls, three miles upriver from the Alpine area, as the crow flies. Tutweiler Gap had been opened to make construction of the dam easier, and travelers used this gap road as well as Beason's Gap in Fort Payne to drive to the school, by wagon and by car. Colonel Howard began work to create a passable road up Wade Gap. He organized a community "working" and on November 21 men arrived with "plows, road shovels, road drags and teams, hoes, mattocks, and picks. By sundown a large section of the mountain side had been dug down and dragged ready for grading. From then on into December...volunteers returned every day that weather permitted to open up Wade Gap."

built in this beautiful setting on a town site which he had laid out and named River Park." He envisioned a hotel, golf course, and bridle paths through the scenic terrain. A fishing club would bring in memberships and a dam would provide hydroelectric power.

He scheduled a land auction on July 4, 1923, to sell tracts in this new community. In April, more than 50 people helped prepare the site chosen for the



The remains of the schoolhouse still stand. They are located on private property.



The schoolhouse's walls show "some of the finest rockwork you'll find in this area," according to David Gilbreath.

By now, the colonel was weary and in mid-December, shortly before his 61st birthday, he returned to California to be with his family and to raise funds for the struggling school. During this sojourn, Joe Biddle and the students built a cabin for Howard on a large flat rock with an expansive vista. When Howard returned the following March, he undertook another speaking tour in his search for financial support. He received much interest and encouragement, but little money. The first notes on land purchases would soon be due.

He turned his eye toward the development of the scenic area of the school property, "where the clear, cool waters of Little River wound past sheer rock bluffs and banks....Rustic summer homes could be

by the end of the day, not a single lot had been bought. A hat was passed, and some money was contributed toward the debt generated by the hopeful event, but it was not enough. The colonel's beloved Sallie came to his rescue, and sent via Air Mail a check in the amount of \$200, "enough to pay all the expenses for his holiday fiasco."

Marion "Old Coc"

community's club house at Alpine. A rustic store was built, a grandstand was constructed, Wade Gap was further graded, a brass band was hired, and a free feast was prepared for attendees. Debt was accumulated with the assumption that land would be sold. Although the land auction drew what E. S. Howard called "the largest crowd ever assembled on Lookout Mountain,"

Keith had been unable to attend the auction and was "distressed to hear of its failure," so he gave the colonel "\$10, which he had saved, toward building the projected dam across the river." And so began Howard's newest project. He placed master craftsman Joe Biddle in charge of the construction. Free labor was given by various local families, including the Crows, Yorks, Culpeppers, and Westers. Cement was "wheelbarrowed" for weeks.

The completed dam created a lake upstream (now called Howard Lake), and Biddle constructed a log mill house and old-fashioned overshot water wheel. Work on the lodge began, overlooking the dam and falls which Stella Vivian Harper had dubbed "Rainbow Falls."

During this time, a year after the Master School had opened, the fall session was postponed due to the colonel's indebtedness and lack of funds.

By the end of the year, Howard was destitute, deeply in debt, and pursued by his creditors. He fell

(continued on page 8)



Colonel Howard's cabin. Note the unique foundation, necessary since the cabin was built on stone. The chimney remains standing. Photo credit: AP, courtesy of Joel Leonard

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Joe Biddle (L) and Milford Howard (R) stand by the waterwheel on Little River at Alpine. Photo credit: AP, courtesy of Joel Leonard

Milford W. Howard (continued from page 7)

into despondency and despair. Sallie eventually mortgaged their California home and drove across the country in 1925 with their grandson, Milford, to personally deliver the money she had borrowed. She stayed for several months, during which time she learned she had cancer; and had only a short time to live. In late summer, she returned to California. Her husband soon followed her, by train, but on October 28, he received a telegram at the El Paso depot and learned that his beloved Sallie had died. She was buried in a cemetery in Glendale, CA, near a little stone chapel called the "Wee Kirk O' the Heather." Standing by her graveside, Howard made a silent vow: "A thousand dreams I've wasted, but this one I'll make come true. Someday I will build you a little chapel like this one you loved as a memorial to you and your name."

On his return to Alabama, he became perhaps more despondent than ever. It was Stella Vivian Harper who, once again, was able to coax him back to life. True to form, this return was signaled by yet another new dream—a scenic highway which would span from Chattanooga to Gadsden. He felt the failure at River Park

was due to its inaccessibility, so he imagined "the longest summit highway in the world, traversed by thousands of automobiles, bordered with roses and dotted with vine-covered cottages set in beautiful orchards and vineyards." Thus began yet another chapter in his life.

He publicly announced his dream highway in March, 1926. The scope of the history of the highway is fascinating but much too detailed to include in this humble article. Milford Howard's personal involvement, though, is worth note. Beyond making speeches to generate interest and raise money, he personally wielded his ax to make a pile of wood stakes and organized a surveying party to stake out the route from Mentone to Gadsden. "Through the cool morning breezes of May," wrote E. S. Howard, "and into the scorching heat of mid-day Colonel Howard ... kept up with the younger men every work day. Half finished by June, the group continued trudging through the thick snake-infested, waist-high underbrush, tearing clothes and ripping flesh on blackberry and saw briars and on scrub-brush plum thorns, while becoming encrusted with 'beggar lice.'"

Howard also walked by foot as he planned the expanse of the highway from Mentone to Chattanooga. He was most concerned about the five miles between Mentone and Wade Gap. E.S. Howard describes how, in 1927, he "labored there from early spring into the fall...he hacked at scrub pines and tall oaks and hickories, snaked off maples, poplars, elms, and locusts. Finally, the road was ready for grading."

Howard is known as the only man who walked his proposed route of the entire highway by foot. The eventual route varied somewhat. It now covers 93 miles.

In the midst of this venture, in November 1926, Howard had married Stella Vivian Harper. After they married, he began to refer to her as "Lady Vivian," a name she is still known by.

Early the next year, the brow portion of Howard's property was sold to Thomas

(continued on page 8)



"Tinker Hollow" was one of the few original houses built as part of the artist colony at River Park. Built in 1932, Roy and Olive Chaffee occupied the house in 1933.

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The original Alpine Lodge was lost to fire in June, 1971. A new lodge, which is still in use, was built on the same site. Photo credit: AP, courtesy of Joel Leonard

Milford W. Howard (continued from page 8)

Berry of Rome, GA, the brother of Martha Berry, founder of Berry College. After paying off all their debt, the couple struck off for a four-month European vacation.

During this phase of his life, he was a prolific writer. Howard chronicled their European adventures in his Birmingham News column, "Vagabond Sketches." He was even granted admittance to an interview with Italy's prime minister, Benito Mussolini, that was published in the Birmingham News.

On their return to River Park, the couple was inspired to create an artist's colony and Lady Vivian wanted to follow a "Little Switzerland" theme. Several chalets were built by Birmingham residents. The following year, Alpine Lodge, now complete and rustically furnished, was promoted as a summer resort. It boasted 3,500 square feet of balconies and porches and could house about 50 guests. It was quite modern for the area, with electricity, running water, telephones, and a sewage system. River Park gained some fame during this time, and notable guests spent time there.



The Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel

In 1934, the Alpine property was sold to Alice MacVicker of Miami, who established a summer girls' camp called Alpine Lodge for Girls. (Today, the property is still a summer camp—Alpine Camp for Boys.)

As always, Howard paid his debts first. Overdue taxes were also paid, and he was left with little money and no home other than the isolated cabin near the old schoolhouse.

In 1935, he watched as the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) worked to clear land for the new state park. He was grateful when they invited him to enjoy a warm meal—sometimes his only meal of the day.

Lady Vivian had apparently become strained by her life with Howard, and she began to spend more time away, often visiting family. In 1936, Howard filed for divorce on the grounds of voluntary abandonment.

In January 1937, his log cabin burned down and he moved into the 75-year-old cabin where the legendary Granny Dollar had died six years earlier. His friends implored him to go to California so he could be cared for by his son. He borrowed money for the trip, but decided that before he left, he would finally fulfill his

promise to Sallie and build a church in her memory. The chapel is based on the one she so admired in the cemetery where she was buried. It is built into the side of a huge granite rock and its pulpit is made of stones from Little River. Howard acted as foreman for six weeks, until his money ran out. Somehow, he secured the needed funds to complete the chapel. The words on the rafters are from Sallie's last letter to Howard: "God Has All Ways Been As Good To Me As I Would Let Him Be." The Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel was dedicated on June 27, 1937.

This final venture left him, once again, broke and in debt. His friends feared he would not survive the winter in Granny Dollar's cabin, and he agreed to travel to California. He arrived at his son Clyde's home on December 15 with a fever of 103. He was diagnosed with bronchial and then lobal pneumonia. Lady Vivian travelled across the country to be with him, and on December 28, 1937, he passed away. His last request was that his ashes be placed inside the rock at Sallie's memorial chapel. A memorial service was held on July 25, 1939, and his remains were interred in the rock. The chapel is now most commonly referred to as "Howard's Chapel."

Many stories of his life remain untold in this article, but interested readers may choose to read *The Vagabond Dreamer* to gain an even fuller picture of this extraordinary man's life. He dreamed beyond his means, battled with depression from time to time, and suffered many reversals of fortune. His great fear was that he would not be remembered in spite of all he tried to accomplish. Thanks to Elizabeth Howard, he is remembered.

The Vagabond Dreamer was published by The Strode Publishers of Huntsville, AL, in 1976. Landmarks of DeKalb County now owns the rights to the book, which recently went into its second printing.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Announces Regular Hours of Operation

by Randy Grider

The Mentone Arts Center held a soft opening in late October and now has regular business hours. The gallery and adjacent gift shop/visitors center are open Thursday–Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Through the first four weeks of operation, the center has seen a great deal of support from local residents and tourists visiting the area.

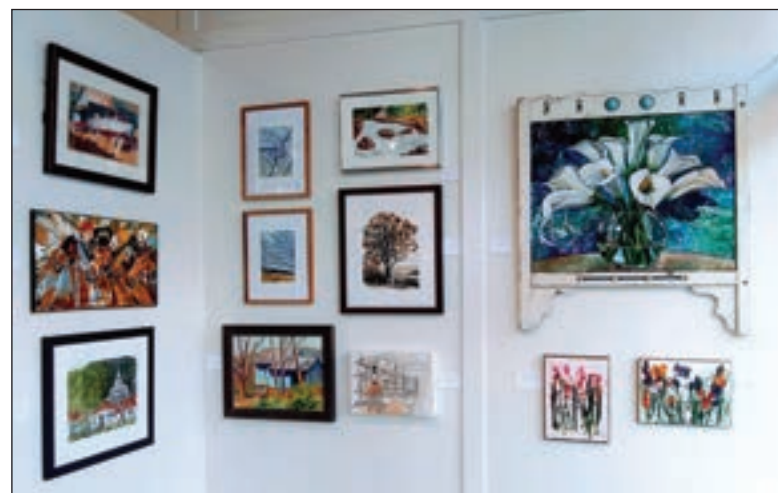
The gallery features many pieces of artwork including bronze sculptors, paintings, glassware and pottery by talented local and regional artists. The gift shop also contains some smaller artwork including handcrafted cards and custom jewelry.

Sales from art helps promote and support artists as well providing arts-related programming. We have

had three successful multi-day classes this fall. While we have paused classes and workshops until after the first of the year due to a recent spike in Covid-19 cases, we are working on a calendar of classes and workshops for 2021.

We are finalizing signage for the front of the building, which will honor the late Chuck Sennett (late son of Charles “Soc” and Barbar Sennett), as well the gift shop/visitors’ information area that will honor the late Gladys Blalock Crane, who was born and raised in Mentone.

We also have many brochures of local attractions for visitors and are working on creating a local history section in the gift shop area.



For updates on classes/workshops and new inventory in the gallery and gift shop, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We also recently redesigned our website, mentoneartscenter.org.

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. He can be reached at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or 256-674-3366.



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See page 18.

Many businesses across the country have certainly suffered since the pandemic began in Spring 2020, with some even closing for good. In the Mentone area, however, several new businesses started up this year, and all are doing well.

Elevation Bistro & Catering Owner/chef Kevin Dunlap intended to open Elevation last spring, right around the time everything shut down. He spent the time waiting for when he could open his doors by refining both the restaurant space and the menu. Elevation opened in June, to rave reviews. Featuring local fresh food, the menu rotates weekly. Kevin is the former general manager of the popular Canyon Grill in Rising Fawn, GA. *Located at 5951 AL Highway 117 in Mentone*

Fontastic Foods Fontana Stinson, formerly of The Wolves’ Den in Mentone, has worked in the restaurant industry for much of her young life. In early spring, she was working with Nathan Winkler at Nate’s Mobile Pizzeria, a food truck located in Fort Payne. When that business moved to a permanent space in Leesburg, the opportunity arose for Fontana to buy the food truck. It had long been a dream to operate a food truck, so she seized this opportunity. In August, she parked the truck on the grounds of the Mentone Inn (where her mother is Innkeeper), painted it with bright colors, and opened for business, to resounding success. *Located at the corner of AL Hwy. 117 and County Road 89*

The Hatter Café & Country Inn The Hatter Café was scheduled to open on August 1. Roger and Pamela Wald had bought the property in the summer of 2019 and then set out to extensively redesign, renovate, and expand the cottage. With the onset of the pandemic, though, all work stopped and the Walds patiently waited for the construction crew, plumbers, electricians, and others to begin work again. The business finally opened on November 1, and customers are thrilled. Designed to be a “relaxing country inn and gathering place for all,” area residents and visitors have been entranced by the café’s Alice in Wonderland theme, which was inspired by the Mad Hatter himself: “The secret, dear Alice, is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile. It is then, only then, that you will find Wonderland.” *Located at 4277 AL Highway 117 in Mentone*

Lil Mole Run Golf Course & Campground While Lil Mole Run isn’t a “new” business, the property had been closed for quite a while before being bought by Tommy Roberts of Armuchee, GA. He and his partner, Darlene Shore, with the help of Butch Manifold, have extensively renovated both the course and the clubhouse, and they have built an RV campground overlooking the main lake. The pandemic may have actually worked in their favor, since golf and camping are considered two of the most risk-free activities. Their business has been steadily increasing. lilmolerun.com

Mountain Framing & Gallery Tom Emory, formerly of the Mentone Market, opened Mountain Framing on March 2. The next week, he was mandated to close the doors. He continued doing framing work by word-of-mouth and private appointments until July. The gallery aspect of the business will need to wait until the coast is clearer, but since July the framing business has experienced spikes of activity as the virus has waxed and waned. Business become increasingly steadier during the fall. *Located at 1714 AL Highway 117 in Mentone*

Seabolt’s Street Tacos Noah Watters spent the early months of the pandemic outfitting a vintage 1973 Airstream travel trailer parked on the property of Moon Lake Trading Co., which is owned by his mother, Misty. The renovation was a family affair, with his mother and father, Alex, helping out. Noah grew up in Mentone, so many residents eagerly awaited the opening of Seabolt’s, the town’s first taco truck. Since the business opened in September, Seabolt’s has been patronized by lines of people eager to have a local taste of Tex-Mex. *Located at 5172 AL Highway 117 in Mentone*

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SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES, with pleasant, winding, private drive. 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen features an efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Main-level master suite. First level also offers a laundry room & 1/2 bath. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Two new CH/A units in Aug 2019. Outdoors, the property includes a well-equipped workshop/garage; a large pole barn for firewood with an attached chicken coop; and a combination of cleared/wooded land. Add'l land avail. \$262,000 (1128526)



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WOW FACTOR! From the wrought-iron, fenced entry, to its panoramic views from over 350' of brow frontage, this 4.2-acre property has plenty of everything to WOW you. Spacious, cedar-sided cabin w/4BR/3BA; rich wood floors; great kitchen; generous back deck; walk-out basement w/views & great potential. Attached 2-car garage; detached 34x39 workshop (perhaps a future guest quarters or event building?) Half the property is fenced, & includes intriguing boulder-surrounded pond w/ waterfall; fruit trees; so much more, & every feature keeps leading your eyes back to that magnificent view! \$695,000. (1155122)



LOTS and LAND

46 ACRES, BARNs, PONDS & fencing. Lookout Mtn acreage, ready for whatever dream you have been considering. Privacy, peace & quiet await. Convenient to Little River Nat'l Preserve, Fort Payne, DeSoto State Park, Mentone. \$220,000 (1155213)

45 ACRES WITH POND. Turn this farm into a dream home-stead! Currently an active cattle farm, this lovely property has the elevations to build with a view. It's a quiet piece of the countryside in the DeSoto Park - Mentone - Fort Payne orbit that is waiting for someone to make it shine. \$160,000 (1155481)

MENTONE. PLENTY OF ROOM TO ROAM! Enjoy 18.2, unrestricted, wooded acres of your very own, just minutes from downtown Mentone. Substantial, paved, county road frontage. Priced very agreeably at only \$85,000! (1152988)

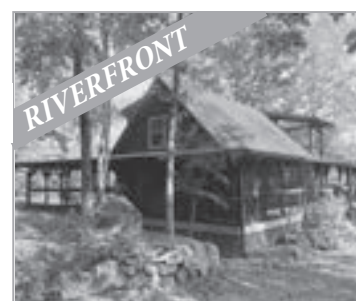
RARE LOT ON LITTLE RIVER AT FALLS. Located just upstream from the picturesque "red boat house" at DeSoto Falls, this beautifully-wooded lot is approx. 95' wide, the prime location for a Little River canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Swim, boat, fish, hike to the falls. Hardwoods, rhododendron, mtn laurel on the property. \$149,900. (1149018)

BROWFRONT LOT. Enjoy your morning coffee and greet the sunrise. From this vantage point, you can watch the changing seasons across the valley & beyond to Lookout Mountain. 0.8-acre, beautifully-wooded lot w/ over 160' East Brow frontage. Owner financing avail. \$75,000 (1151053)

SWEET! Level, partly-wooded, corner lot, approx 0.5 acres. Seller says this was the site of the original homeplace for this beautiful area once known as Pells Gap. Owner financing avail. \$15,000. (1151268)



SLEEPY HOLLOW Recently renovated & professionally designed interior make this 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.73 acres in Laurel Creek Lakes a fabulous find! The dining room, which does not have a fireplace, is a new space with an outdoor fire pit perfect for cool nights. The bedroom and bath on each floor are all about comfort with a skylight in the upper level. It's just about perfect! \$239,900! (1154856)



RIVENDELL! PEACE & RELAXATION. Beautifully-updated & totally-upgraded cabin, on 3.3 wooded acres, w/approx. 195' on Little River. Pines wrap the cabin in a multi-level of comfort. Main level w/4BR; dining room with view of the river. Bonus Fairytale playhouse or artist studio, that's just as sweet as the cabin! \$498,500. (1155399)



13.34 ACRES, PONDS, OLD FARM HOUSE, SHOP & VARIOUS OUTBUILDINGS. The old house needs a good bit of TLC. Best feature is the stone fireplace. Decent little front porch, too. Ponds are thought to offer good fishing. Three wells on the property, one of which is clear, freestone water. Not perfect, tons of work needed, and priced accordingly. \$129,900 (1155211)



WELL-MAINTAINED CABIN IN NORTHBEND, on 3 mostly-wooded acres. Durable, fiber cement lapboard siding exterior. 3BR/3BA; bonus loft area & studio space; beautiful oak floors; sunroom dining area; handsome stone fireplace w/gas logs; fresh interior & exterior paint; new HVAC on main level; new appliances. Small workshop. Less than a mile from Brow Park/Mentone, yet very private. Includes most furnishings & 1-yr Home Warranty. \$245,000 (1156411)



THE GATE HOUSE. 3 (or 4) BR/2BA cottage just beckons one to relax on the porch; perhaps take the 15-minute hike down to DeSoto Falls. Inside, there's relaxation and in the morning, a warm wood-burning stove & floors throughout. Room for lotsa folks on the porch (rocking chairs & swing included); plenty of sleeping quarters, too. \$195,000. (1152815)



A PIECE OF MENTONE MTN HISTORY, written in stone & wood, tucked into the boulder-strewn hillside in historic East River Park, Camp Alpine area. Constructed of stone & wood, this 1BR/1BA cabin is the perfect mountain retreat. The cabin also has a detached studio (or perhaps use it as a guest BR) & small storage building. Little River just across the road, & an access point at Alpine bridge is only a short walk away. \$125,000 (1155754)



BROW-FRONT GETAWAY CABIN. A straightforward, solid, little, one-level, one-owner cabin located along the DeSoto Pkwy. All-wood interior features a huge, stone fireplace w/raised hearth the brow view has been left uncut in order to provide shade in the summer. Select cut to create the view you want. 2-car garage could be converted into guest quarters. Great rental potential! \$299,900 (1148480)



TRULY THE HEART OF MENTONE: the Hitching Post, rich with history & even a bit of mystery! Steeped with charm & interesting nooks, this building has potential to be most anything! Plenty of space for office/retail w/covered, stone-floored entryway. This is THE corner on the market...literally! But, there is also that magnificent, light-filled space upstairs (approx 2800 sq ft) for a studio or booths. Generous parking. \$350,000 (1143518)



Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

Cove Road Baptist Church invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services—Sunday School 10am (GA time) Morning Worship 11am (GA time), Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30pm (GA time). Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor. 2415 County Road 631.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services at 10am each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable. County Road 617.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy has Sunday School at 10am, with Worship at 11am. Evening services begin at 5:30pm on Sunday and 6pm on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend. AL Hwy 117 (across from Mentone Post Office).

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Tim Miller. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am (please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720). Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Heidi C. Bender. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music with a pot luck lunch afterwards. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is a growing community of believers from various walks of life who endeavor to share the light, life, and love of Jesus with all we meet. We gather together for practical Bible study at 10am on Sunday. You can count on an encouraging and life-engaging message at 11am each Sunday. At 6pm, on Sunday, we enjoy a time of praying together. On Wednesdays at 6pm, we have groups for our children, students, and adults. 4671 Al Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568. Connect with us on Facebook at "Moon Lake" or Pastor Mike at "Mike Ellis".

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church offers Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Pastor Jack Green. 10090 County Road 103. 706-862-6221.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and Sacred Garden is open daily for prayer and thanksgiving; however, indoor service and group meetings have been temporarily cancelled due to COVID-19. You may join us for weekly services by visiting our website at stjom.dioala.org. We are continuing to support our community with outreach, so please call our church office at 256-634-4476 for more information. 21145 Scenic Hwy, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

Spirit Expression Ministry, a Chapel of the Alliance of Divine Love, invites you to sit with us in sacred circle on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am Central at Heartwood Center, 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Reverend Cathy Haven Howard facilitates a spiritual wisdom topic. Email havenhoward1@gmail.com for directions and questions.

Summit Church of God in Mentone invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45am, Sunday night 5pm, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30pm. Pastor Lance Kincer.

Hammondville, Alabama

The **Church of God 7th Day** invites you to Sabbath School

*We suggest you
contact the churches
to inquire about how they are
currently holding services.*

classes at 9:30am and Worship Service at 11am. Visitors are always welcome. Located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. 256-717-5040.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10am Sunday Bible Study, 11am Morning Worship, 6pm Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8pm Awana (ages 4-18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. 4212 County Road 751. 256-635-1001.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 10am & Morning Worship is at 11am; Kidz Connection is at 5pm, Evening Worship at 6pm. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5-6pm & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church-wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6pm. 265 Church Street. 256-465-1242.

Visitors are always welcome at **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30am. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome. 146 Church St.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in Moon Lake Baptist Church's dining hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30-10:45am, Worship Service 11am-12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

Fort Payne, Alabama

Since 1889, worshippers have gathered at the **Historic First Presbyterian Church PC (USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55am. 256-845-2915.

The **Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10am, Wednesday evening at 6pm. 3610 Grand Ave. SW. 256-997-0047.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) invites you to Sunday School at 9:45am; Sunday Worship at 10:55am. 256-845-4756. 5760 Gault Ave. NE.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church welcomes you to Sunday School at 10am & Worship Service at 11am each Sunday. All are welcome. Wednesdays at 6pm, we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses. 14701 Hwy 11 South.

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Our worship services are at 11am and also on Sunday evenings in the Chapel 6pm. You can also worship with us on-line @ facebook.com/neworegonumc. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages meeting at 6pm in the Family Life Center. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-

845-7446.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church holds Sunday mass in English at 10am and 1pm in Spanish. Tuesday at 6pm in English, Wednesday at 5pm bilingual, Thursday at 6pm in English, Friday at 9am in English and Saturday at 6pm in bilingual. 2910 Gault Ave. N. 256-845-4774.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church holds regular Worship Services at 10am Sunday. Clifford Herd, Pastor. Everyone is welcome. 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85). 256-845-4842.

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 8am. 411 SW Grand Ave. (in the basement of Killian & Killian Attorneys). Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10am, Worship Service at 11am, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6pm, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30pm. 3606 Greenhill Blvd NW. 256-996-0929.

Cloudland, Georgia

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Jan Warren-Taylor. Bible Study Sunday at 9am (EST) and Worship at 10am (EST). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor Jeremy Stroop welcomes each and everyone to worship service Sunday mornings at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am (EST); and Wednesday night Bible Study at 7pm (EST). 1104 Hwy. 337, Menlo GA. 706-862-6641.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend 10am (EST) and 11am (EST) Sunday services and evening services at 5pm (EST) on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Menlo Presbyterian Church (ECO) invites everyone to attend services with us. Sunday School at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11:15am (EST). Rev. Jan Taylor is our pastor. We are located at 70 North 6th Ave., next to the park in Menlo.

Summerville, Georgia

Redemption Worship Center invites you to "Find Love, Encouragement, & Purpose!" Wednesdays: Hour of Power Bible Study 6:30pm (EST); Chosen Generation Youth 6:30pm (EST). Sundays: Sunday School 9:30am (EST); Morning Celebration 10:30am (EST). Pastors Dr. David & Penny Reeves. 174 West First Avenue. 706-808-0909.

Summerville Seventh Day Adventist Church invites you to worship with us. Saturday morning Sabbath School classes at 9:30am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Everyone is welcome. Services are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 116 College Street. The Pastor is Dr. Edward Skoretz. summervillesda.com

**Please send any changes to
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or P.O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984**



Have you seen all the cute Christmas decorations and accessories that feature little red trucks carrying home a snowy Christmas tree from the farm? They're very popular! And we have our own "little red truck" right here in Mentone! Ken Trowbridge and Vicky Patrick have owned this 1978 Dodge Li'l Red Express Truck for 3 years. This is just one of the 2,188 that were made that year. This truck has been restored to its original condition and has an engine that loves to roar. Santa can't wait to take this baby for a spin!

Christmas Parade

Fort Payne's 48th Annual Fort Payne Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, December 11, at 6 p.m.

The City of Fort Payne will host Christmas in the Park prior to the start of the Parade. Please wear a mask and adhere to social distancing.

Fort Payne High School's, FPTV, will live stream the Parade and you may watch the Parade on the FPTV app, fpcsk12.com/fptv.

*Happy Holidays from the
Mentone Area Preservation Association!*

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MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Seasons of Celebration!

The giving season is upon us and MERF has some great ways to give twice! “Leave Me in Mentone” items are available at Little River Hardware, DeSoto State Park Country Store, or from Sarah. Show off your Mentone pride with a cap, t-shirt, tote, car tag, or sweatshirt. Also, artwork that was intended for the cancelled Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction is available at Mountain Framing and Mentone Arts Center. Stop in either place for MERF’s artwork and other great artwork and framing. A sneak peek is available at 32auctions.com/mountainframing and 32auctions.com/macc. All proceeds benefit the programs of MERF. Thanks to these businesses and artists that support MERF’s efforts to enrich Mentone.



Brad Lackey of Lookout Mountain Photography captures the beauty of this Majestic Elk at Sunrise on a 36"x24" wrap canvas available at Mountain Framing and benefitting MERF.

2020 has been a challenging year for us all but our community continues to thrive with opportunities to enjoy each other and to focus on the gifts of this unusual time. It brings lots of gratification of seeing so many enjoying the Pathway to Community project and using the walking track on a regular basis. You might think that I am crazy, but I think COVID made it even better as we had time to invest in the creation of a happy, fun place. For me, if MERF’s regular programs were ongoing, it would have been exceedingly difficult to accomplish both well and with a joyful heart. Thank you COVID for giving us all the space to create. Kelly Leavitt and I just finished the final report to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, who awarded MERF the Big Idea grant. It was enjoyable answering two of the questions about lessons learned and the impact of the project on Mentone.

Here is what was submitted for the question, “How has your organization and/or the community changed due to this grant?”

The MERF walking trail has been truly transformed, from being an under-used path to one that is now vibrant and well-used. Children and adults alike enjoy playing the musical instruments as they walk along the path. The brightly colored mural on the outbuilding brings a striking artistic touch to what was, essentially, an invisible building. Small socially distanced groups are gathering outside on the Adirondack chairs to visit, to knit, and to play.

The pandemic began to affect our lives just as this project was scheduled to move into action, so we had to make some adjustments. We had planned to use the school gym for the picket painting, thinking we could get all the pickets painted in a matter of days. With the closure of the school and the need for social distancing, we moved the picket painting to the porch and front yard of the MERF community house. Throughout the late spring and summer months, people signed up for appointments on the website of our partner, the Little River Arts Council, and we were able to limit painting sessions to 2-6 people at a time, with everyone wearing masks and maintaining distance. This actually brought a certain intimacy to the project. People made new friends and had the time to chat with each other as they painted. Over 400 pickets were painted, each with its own story. This has helped people feel a certain “ownership” of the fence and it has definitely created community pride. An unexpected benefit of the project was that many participants who did not think they had any artistic talent now

realize they actually do, and many have said they plan to buy art supplies and further explore their creativity. See the sense of community joy and working together in the YouTube video on Mentone Educational Resources Foundation’s channel of the day the fence went up (bit.ly/pathway-fence).

The project gave many a sense of purpose and pleasure in an uncertain time. A wide variety of skill sets were needed to accomplish the vision of the pathway from the creative to the practical. Over 50 volunteers offered their time, resources, and sweat equity. One volunteer loved sketching out designs for those less confident in their picket painting skills. Several used their carpentry skills to create the fence. The design team found the perfect spots for each musical instrument, bench, and table. Holes were dug, plants planted, and mulch was laid by the landscaping team. The In-Kind donation of workforce was overwhelming as everyone who wanted to participate in enhancing the pathway offered their abilities.



We reached out to community members for their feedback about how the Pathway to Community project impacted the community and their personal lives.

- The project has enlivened the walking path in such a way as I now use it regularly. Love the friendship bench and its location—beautiful view out over the area. Each visit, I see a new picket or, rather, an old one in a new way. The timing was perfect to have this avail during Covid. I can feel the embrace of community as I walk along the fence line. Or drive on the road. It’s like a virtual gathering of neighbors. And then I don’t feel alone and have hope. —Lisa S.
- I think it draws people in. The colorful fence catches the eye. I know it draws mine whenever I drive past it. The children seem to be more involved and I see more people actually using the pathway these days. That our little community, plus others from out of town, even out of state, painted the pickets is rather cool! —Dowe F.
- The Pathway project provided much needed human interaction and boosted community spirits during a very trying pandemic period when all MERF events, as well as almost all other community interactions, were canceled and everybody was hunkered down. —Chris D.
- What a bright, bright spot for all to see and enjoy. Especially significant with it emerging during this particular time in our nation and among its citizenry. Thanks to all who contributed. —Bruce B.
- Love how it brings the people from Mentone and other people together. It makes our little town special. —Kelly
- Very nice!! My granddaughters love the music to play! —Linda
- The Pathway is a beautiful place to connect with old friends and make new ones. Our grandchildren love the musical instruments and love seeing the pickets they painted each time they visit. Our dog Yogi loves the smells along the pathway, and we keep up with our laps around the track with the beautiful abacus that Don made. Overall, it is a smashing success for MERF and brings peace, joy, and happiness to our community. —Kay

(continued on page 5)

MERF News (continued from page 1)

- It equals the natural beauty that Mentone enjoys! So special that it was created by human hands. —Sandra P.
- It's the first place I take my guests to give them an impression of the kind of community I am blessed to live in. —Joselle L.

Thanks again to everyone who was so willing to help in creating this inviting space! #leavemeinmentone
MERF loves being able to provide wonderful experiences and look forward to bringing back some of our favorites in 2021. MERF could not do what it does without each of you! Here is to a fabulous New Year and an engaging and vibrant 2021!

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193.

Sarah Wilcox is the executive director of MERF (Mentone Educational Resources Foundation).



MERF's Arts Education teacher, Paula Easter, has been developing more Mentone artists weekly at Moon Lake Elementary School and monthly with these fun turkeys at MERF moms.

Valley Head Hosts Letters to Santa and Christmas Tree Lighting

The Town of Valley Head is helping Santa out with his mail this year! Please bring your letters to Santa to the Valley Head Town Hall before December 10 and Rudolph will pick them up and get them to the North Pole. Ho Ho Ho!

On Saturday, December 5, at 6 p.m., the town will host its annual Christmas Tree Lighting—with a twist. Everyone is invited to watch the tree lighting from the safety of their cars. Arrive a bit early to get good parking place in the old football field across from Town Hall. It won't quite be the same, but the town is committed to keeping traditions going!



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Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

In 2019, Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the nation's top 6 tiny home communities by U.S. News & World Report. As a result, our community is now almost fully occupied by folks who have come from 12 different states. Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership, where 6-8 tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation, as well as developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

A new development is coming to Mentone, only 3 miles from town. Mentone Mountain Escape will be a tiny home neighborhood with +/-20, 1/2-acre wooded lots per house and a common area with a dog park, patio, and firepit area.



RIVER RIDGE ESCAPE

Tour River Ridge Escape's Tiny Homes • Thurs-Sat 11-5 EST or by appointment

12333 Hwy 48, Menlo, GA 30731

RiverRidgeEscape.com 706-936-0007



River Voice by Angie Shugart

I grew up swimming at the mouth of Little River. It never occurred to me, wading in the deep, cool water that visitors would come from parts unknown to feel the same respite. I remember looking toward Lookout Mountain and feeling grateful to live here. Never, did I imagine that I would be tasked with the job of protecting it, in order for future generations to experience the same pristine beauty. Decades later, I'm still filled with gratitude every time I'm near the water and am in awe of its power to heal and cleanse my spirit.

Little River Waterkeeper is a small part of a worldwide water advocacy community, the Waterkeeper Alliance. We work on issues that threaten the water quality of Little River and its tributaries. Also, we partner with other environmental groups to address statewide water quality issues and sign on to take action on worldwide environmental concerns. The job is more or less a constant battle, as we fight each day to uphold the Clean Water Act of 1977 and the Clean Air Act of 1963. The job is taxing but at the same time, rewarding.

Although our funding declined and pretty much came to a halt in 2020, some generous donations made it possible for us to monitor several sites throughout the watershed, create awareness about issues like

riverbank erosion, and educate thousands of people about Little River. Moving forward with optimism, we plan to address the areas on Little River that are causing sediment pollution and degrade water quality, through a restoration grant. We will also continue our "Keep Little River Wild & Scenic" campaign by creating legislation that will provide funding to study the areas of Little River that are suitable for and would benefit from the National designation. Our anti-litter program, Erase the Waste will kick off its 10th year on MLK/National Day of Service in January.

I know the future seems intimidating, and no doubt, we will face new challenges due to the aftermath of the pandemic. Much remains unknown. However, the one constant that I can share is a commitment to fight for clean water for our community, country, and the planet. Please consider supporting the work of Little River Waterkeeper as we continue to defend the fundamental human right to clean water here at home and abroad.

Ways To Give

- Make a Donation through PayPal at bit.ly/LRW-2020
- Become a Member (Business \$25 or Individual \$50)
- at littleriverwaterkeeper.org/get-involved
- Donate to Little River Waterkeeper when you make AmazonSmile Purchases
- Buy Little River Waterkeeper

Merchandise! We designed a new logo and merchandise! Just in time for the holidays! LRWK Logo 3x3 Sticker \$5; District Re-Tee 100% recycled organic cotton t-shirt \$30; or embroidered trucker hat \$25



Angie Shugart is the executive director of Little River Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) water advocacy program and a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global clean water movement. Donations are tax deductible. 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service January 8

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.



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REDUCED

WARM & INVITING—3 BR 3.5 BA home w/ Master & guest BR on main level, 3rd BR, loft & sitting area on second level. 2 sunrooms, living room w/ wood burning fireplace, 320sq. ft. front porch. 3-car garage. Situated on 1.43 acres less than 1 mile from downtown Mentone. \$359,000. MLS #1154406



MOUNTAIN LAUREL INN is nestled in the woods above Little River. Main residence w/ BR/BA, living, kitchen, utility & sunroom. Guest house w/ 4BR, each w/private entrance & bath, & 2-room studio w/kitchenette. Gathering house w/ LR and kitchenette. Approx. 7-acre property borders DeSoto State Park. \$379,000. MLS #1153859



CABIN BY THE RIVER—2 Bedroom, 1 Bath cabin situated on 3.39 wooded acres bordered by the Chattooga River. Custom glass kitchen cabinet doors and Sylacauga marble backsplash in the kitchen. Kayak or float river to Weiss Lake or take it easy and fish for supper. \$89,900. MLS #1154660



MENTONE LOG CABIN on hill w/ sunset views, 300yds. off Little River West Fork. 3BD/2BA, black walnut LR floor, slate rock kitchen floor. Covered porch on 3 sides. Illuminated patio w/ fire pit, koi pond w/ waterfall. Recent updates include tin roof, remodeled baths, pressure-treated porch floor. \$346,500. MLS #1153722



1 SPECTACULAR SPACE, 3 SEPARATE AREAS...."General's Lodge" w/ 3BR, 2BA, wood stove, spectacular views...."Hideaway Lodge" on lower level of main lodge w/ 2BR, 1BA...."Tree House" above detached garage w/1BR, 1BA. 2.74 acres w/trees, outdoor spaces, over 300' of Brow Views AND an impressive rental history! \$549,000. MLS #1153165

LOTS & LAND

#1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900

#1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! REDUCED TO \$44,950

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. REDUCED TO \$83,900

#1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. REDUCED TO \$74,500.

#1076286—Beautiful Building Spot in Mentone! Perfectly located 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision with over 400 feet of river frontage! \$39,900.

#1078140—16.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800

#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$19,900

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! REDUCED TO \$79,900.

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$197,000

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$68,500

#1118808—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118810—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900

#1118898—BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON TOP OF WORLD FAMOUS LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! Sloping wooded lot inside gated community. Call Now for more information. \$30,000

#1128694—40 acres with 3-acre lake stocked with bream and bass. \$189,900.

#1129833—1.5-acre brow lot in Mentone. \$124,900

#1130311—The time to buy is now! Steal of a deal on 2 acres with a seasonal brow view! Build that cabin or home you have always wanted. Priced only at \$29,999.

#1138874—WAKE UP TO WATERFRONT LIVING on this 6.22 acres with a long and winding stream and frontage on Brush Creek. This property is located in a cul-de-sac and has lots of rock outcroppings and boulders scattered all about. The property has beautiful frontage along the creek and is mostly wooded. \$49,900

#1145115—BEAUTIFUL BUILDING LOTS across from Lake Lahusage near the dam! This wooded 2.5 acre parcel is divided from a larger tract and has all the making of a wonderful home site! \$22,500

#1145590—GREAT POSSIBILITIES! This 22 acres +/- has lots of road frontage on Hwy. 117. \$125,000

#1150850—BEAUTIFUL BROW PROPERTY on County Road 103. You are within 5 minutes of Little River Canyon Falls! This is a great opportunity to purchase land and build that mountain cabin or dream home you desire! Seller will consider owner finance at full ask price with 20% down at 5.5% interest rate! \$52,900.

#1148791—Beautiful 2-acre parcel in the mountains of Mentone on County Road 106! Wooded, gently sloping. Make that dream come true of building that cabin in the mountains of Alabama. Power and water at the road. \$13,900

#1149803—GORGEOUS LOT IN MENTONE with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000

#1150871—WHAT AN ADDRESS FOR YOUR NEXT HOME! Enjoy peace and quiet and the sound of rushing waters on this 3-acre lot on West Fork of Little River in Mentone. Bring your plans and move to Mentone today! \$48,500

#1150900—ATTENTION LAND LOVERS...For those of you seeking peace and quiet surroundings on West Fork Little River here's your chance to build the home of your dreams. This 2-acre tract is too wonderful to pass you by. \$48,500

#1150911—PANAROMIC VIEWS FOR MILES & MILES! Along with views of Battelle below in the valley. Bring your home plans and enjoy nature on this 8.9 tract of land. \$230,000

#1150912—WOW! What Amazing VIEWS you have for miles and miles! Beautiful views of Battelle below. Great place to build your forever home on this 8.8 acres of prime brow property. \$225,000

#1156528—9.93 acres with a spring! Great Building Spot! \$65,900

#1770010—3.10 acres on CR 89. \$30,000



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Moon Lake Community Library

News by Kelly Leavitt



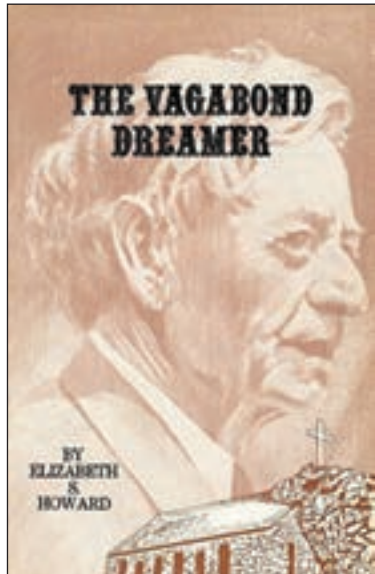
We will certainly miss displaying our Yuletide village train set this year, as well as hosting our holiday open house. When we can all safely gather again, we will celebrate with a community-wide social...I promise!

We'd like to welcome Jennifer Booker and Betsy Sheldon to our board of directors. They will each be important to the future direction of our library.

Our virtual book sale continues, with over 1,200

books in the fiction section alone. As we continue offering curbside service, please visit our website at moonlakelibrary.org to reserve books to borrow or purchase, or to arrange a time for private browsing.

Please consider a holiday donation to the library. We rely on the community for our existence, as we receive no municipal monies. The library is registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in the state of Alabama. *Kelly Leavitt is the librarian at Moon Lake Community Library.*



Moon Lake Book Club: *The Vagabond Dreamer* by Elizabeth S. Howard

Tuesday, January 19 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

The story of Colonel Milford W. Howard is fascinating. Elizabeth S. Howard (no relation) details his life in this enjoyable biography published in 1978. The feature article on page 1 of this issue focusses on his life in the Mentone area, but the book explores his life from childhood to death. Meticulously researched, it brings the colonel to life.

Published by Landmarks of DeKalb County, *The Vagabond Dreamer* is available to borrow from the library. We also have paperback copies to purchase for \$15 (for a limited time). First-edition hardcover covers can be found at DeSoto State Park.

To learn how to connect to this free Zoom presentation, go to moonlakelibrary.org.

"Reflections on a Pandemic" with Jim Baggett

Monday, January 25 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

In January 2020, we hosted Jim Baggett, who presented a multi-media program on the 1918 global influenza pandemic, the worst pandemic in human history. He explained that "stores, theaters, fairs, schools, and even churches were closed to try and stop the spread of the disease." At the time, this was hard to imagine. But now, almost a year later, we are all too familiar with what life during a pandemic looks like. A new phrase has even been coined—"Covid fatigue".

Jim will join us again on Monday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. to lead a discussion of life during a pandemic, and participants will be able to share their own experiences. We will record this session as a way of documenting how our community has dealt with this year's challenges. Jim's talks are

always popular; we hope you can join us. Visit our website at moonlakelibrary.com to learn how to connect on Zoom via computer or phone.

Jim Baggett is Head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and Archivist for the City of Birmingham. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists, Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, and as a trustee for several historical associations. Jim has lectured throughout the U.S. and in Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, Alabama Public Radio, National Public Radio, and C-SPAN. He has authored two books on Alabama history, edited three others, and has written more than fifty articles. Jim lives with his wife and daughter in Birmingham and Mentone.

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Enchanted Garden of Lights



The Morgan children enjoying the lights

Are you looking for something festive *and* safe for your family to enjoy this holiday season? The Enchanted Garden of Lights at Rock City in Chattanooga might fit the bill.

The 26-year-old holiday tradition features the Artic Kingdom Aurora Lights, a newly enhanced realm filled with the traditional icy blue and white, but immersed with the addition of aquamarine and purple, creating a design reminiscent of the aurora borealis lights.

The Magic Forest soars to holiday heights with the 43-foot tree of lights featuring 12,690 channels of light control. Descend through the Magic Forest as the sounds of the season dance around you. Walk through the center of the 43-foot tree and into a 40-foot-long walk-through archway tunnel where an additional 3,000 channels of light control form an oversized marquee-style board displaying holiday magic.

Meet Santa Claus in his cozy office where he works hard creating the Naughty and Nice list! Catch a one-of-a-kind glimpse of his Toy Shop and Sleigh as Santa prepares to spread Christmas Magic throughout the world!

It's easy to social distance, and masks are required for entrance. Limited occupancy is maintained, since timed-entry tickets must be purchased online in advance at seerockcity.com. One specific route keeps people from freely wandering around.

Rich and Sarah Morgan of Mentone recently took their family to see the lights. "We had a wonderful experience at Rock City Enchanted Garden of Lights this year. I'm a mom of three kids and it felt great to be able to get out and do something festive as a family and still feel safe. Rock City did an amazing job at maintaining social distancing, masks, and overall safety but without taking away from any of the fun. The lights were amazing, the crowds were small, the staff was diligent in maintaining safety, and it was just an overall great night."

SENIOR HEALTH

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Works with SenioRx Enrollment

by Emily McCamy

Once a year, Medicare participants have the opportunity to change their drug plans to another plan that may be more helpful. Each year these plans change somewhat in either their premium, copays, deductibles, or what medications they may cover. People on Medicare have the responsibility to see if their plan has changed or if it is still the plan that is best suited for them. Open Enrollment time for Medicare Part D plans runs through December 7.

The DeKalb County Council on Aging SHIP program is designed to be most helpful in this. Lynn Hixon can log into Medicare's website and find out each person's best plan based on their medications, drugstore, income, and their desire for either a stand-alone drug plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan. To schedule an appointment with her, please call 256-845-8590.

The SenioRx program also works hand-in-hand with the SHIP program to ensure that those participants who could qualify for the SenioRx prescription assistance program are enrolled into the program for free or low-cost medications through the drug manufacturers. This program helps offset the cost to the patient and also helps to keep them from going into the coverage gap (donut hole). This program is for brand name medications that are taken on a daily basis. To schedule an appointment with DiAnne Callahan, please call 256-845-8590.

Since COVID-19 has closed our doors to the public, we are using a variety of methods to assist clients. We will be doing appointments over the telephone, follow-up by mail, and/or by driving by the office, where we can copy your information. Call us at 256-845-8590 for any senior needs you may have.

Emily McCamy is the director of the DeKalb County Council on Aging.





N•E•W•S by Anne McLeod

dollars stay in our local economy and help families in the community during these challenging months. Our artists and makers are what make Mentone and the Little River region a vibrant place to live and to visit.

Ornament Contest

With the holiday season upon us, the Little River Arts Council is sponsoring an ornament contest for both children and adults. If you've been looking for a creative project that's not too big and not too small but just right, we hope you'll consider making an ornament.

- Contest runs through December 27, 11:59 p.m.
- Enter your photo on FaceBook or Instagram, tagging it with #lracornamentcontest
- There are no restrictions on media and no specific theme—just be creative!
- Adult prize will be choice of a Little River Arts Council membership or T-shirt
- Children's prize will be a \$30 gift card

Prizes will be awarded by random drawing, rather than judged, as the primary purpose is to encourage participation and showcase creativity in our community. Art can help us process and commemorate tough times, as well as celebrate moments of light and joy. We look forward to seeing what you create in the final weeks of 2020.



Artist Registry Seeks Artists

Calling all creatives! Get the word out about your artwork through the Arts Council's Artist Registry. As registrations come in and are posted, it is clear that we are blessed in this area with an abundance of artists in many different media.

If you're an artist and would like to be listed, go online to littleriverartscouncil.org. There you'll find

the form to submit photographs, a short bio, links to your website or social media, and your contact information. Listing in the registry is free.

And if you're looking for holiday gifts or a special piece for your own home, you can find it on the artist registry. Again, your local purchases help our community!

Virtual Programming Continues

Little River Arts Council received a relief grant this summer from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to help sustain the organization during this time of pandemic. The board voted to use these funds, in part, to develop a series of virtual concerts, talks, and studio tours of local artists. The artists and musicians will be paid for their time, helping the Arts Council fulfill its mission of supporting artists.

In December, we will post a concert we filmed of Matt Downer, of Chattanooga TN, playing on the bank of Little River. Matt performs traditional old time music on fiddle, banjo and guitar. Growing up on Sand Mountain, he learned to play music from his grandfather and the elder musicians of the area. A veteran performer, he has played at various venues and festivals including—Rock City, Tivoli, Nightfall, Riverbend and the International Stringband Festival, performing with legendary artists such as - Carolina Chocolate Drops, Pokey Lafarge, Jack Rose, Michael Hurley and Norman Blake. His most recent album was recorded without electricity, directly to wax cylinders, on a 1906 Edison Gramophone at the MTSU Center For Popular Music. A performance by Matt is a trip back in time to the "good old days" of early American music.

This month we will also feature a vignette with Mentone artist Lydia Randolph, who is known for her neo-cubist paintings of Lookout Mountain and its views and vistas. She is also an accomplished portrait artist and muralist.

These videos will be posted in December on our website, social media, and YouTube. We hope you'll enjoy getting to know these artists.

Anne McLeod serves as secretary for the Little River Arts Council.

Merrityme Artisan Market Moves Online

This year Little River Arts Council made the decision to move its popular Merrityme Artisan Market online due to the COVID19 pandemic. Artists who participate will be featured on the Arts Council's social media and website, and customers can make purchases through artists' online stores, brick and mortar locations, or individual commissions. The Merrityme Artisan Market will be held online December 7 through January 1, 2021. Please see our website at littleriverartscouncil.org for more information.

We encourage everyone to shop locally as much as possible for holiday purchases. These



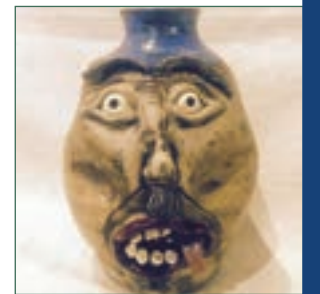
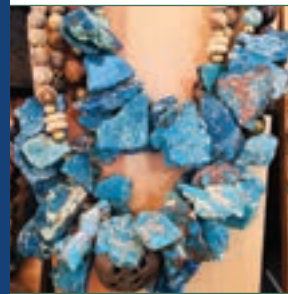
Art is Essential



Art Market

Thursday—Saturday 9 am-to 4 pm CDT

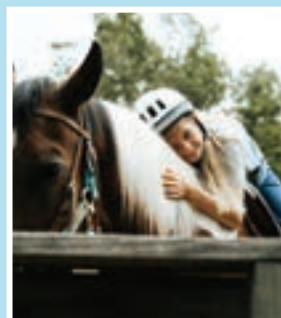
*Our artists thank you for your continued support.
They have used this downtime to continue to CREATE
wonderful work for your enjoyment.*



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Camp Juliette Low

on Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, GA



Sleepaway Adventure for Girls Ages 8-17

1-Week, 2-Week & Mini-Sessions

June 6-July 31, 2021

Early Bird rates available through January 15

Summer Staff Positions Available

Camp Counselor | Horseback | Program Staff | Kitchen



Visit CJL.ORG for more information

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | Gayla Blalock
Mark Hatfield
Morgan Crane
Marcia Tucker
Christine Brooks
Megan Kelley | 7 | Gavin Myers
Keesha Burgess
Reagan Owen
Nathan Owen
Olivia Burton
Brandy Graham |
| 2 | Ladon Willingham
Dwayne McKenzie
Angel Baggett
Brody Britton | 8 | Bailey Pryor
Trish Clink
Ross Hulkan |
| 3 | Karen Saferite
Austin Battles
Angie Bell Young
Cherita Holman | 9 | Brenda Kerby
Kyle Freeman
Mike Stone |
| 4 | Lloyd McElhaney
Nichole Williams
Lydia Rastall
Heath Blalock
Raymond Beasley
Easton Bailey
Melissa Patton | 10 | Kevin Worthey
Tammy Frost
John Breithaupt
Daniel Kilgore
Jeremy Hart
Darlene Swindall |
| 5 | Jess Goggans
Brian Howard
Berkley Chambers
Barbara Neel
Avery Pepper
Aero Potts
Zack Peek
Arrielle Turner | 11 | Christine Ballenger
Bryson Morgan
Toni Freeman
Hannah Blansit
Christy Cordell
Kaelan Shankles |
| 6 | Austin Potts
Judy Johnson
Tonja Bell | 12 | Valerie Logan
Jeff Nelson
Connie Nelson
Waylon Collins |

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|------------|
| | Sharon Crouch
Mia Sweeney
Chuck Williams
Alex Easler | | Gwen Stone |
| 13 | Moria Potts
Deborah Mason
Crystal Poteat
Jerrod Landers
Kathy Nappier | | 20 |
| 14 | Ginny Zulker
Barbara Neel
Jim Phillips
Samuel Dobbins
Patton Pridmore | | 21 |
| 15 | Jessica Van Pelt
Brody Baber
Justin Shankles
Ivy McCoy
Isaac Crow | | 22 |
| 16 | Lane Traffanstedt
Jeff Pack
Charlotte Goss
Hailee Wells | | 23 |
| 17 | Holly Williams
Chris O. Smith
Austin Black
Jay Wagner | | 24 |
| 18 | Ashley Pounders
Daniel Brown
Scot Sharp | | 25 |
| 19 | Brynda Hopper
Nick Hill
Jake Nelson
Jesse Bailey
Tyler Gravitt | | |
| | | | 20 |
| | | | 21 |
| | | | 22 |
| | | | 23 |
| | | | 24 |
| | | | 25 |

- | | |
|----|---|
| | Irene Willingham
Justin Easler
Amanda Foote
Logan Smith
Adam Bethune |
| 26 | Jason Goss
Melanie Grisham
Avery Frazier
Sheila LaRock |
| 27 | Melissa Shoults
Houston Downer
Jennifer Blalock
Sally Wheat
Cindy Lee
Rachel Ford
Madeline Taylor |
| 28 | Avice Pearson
Annette Chappell
Brooke Morris
Elizabeth Russell
Shawn Turner
SaraDawn Langston |
| 29 | LeAnn Bain
Christie Langston
Mary Spicer |
| 30 | Dawn Langston |
| 31 | Kiley Shankles
Michael Kelley Jr
Holly Gentry
Alicia Robertson |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Cotton & Pam Baggett
Hoyt & Helen Ashley
Lamar & Cheryl King |
| 2 | Joe & Donna McClure |
| 3 | Walt & Shirley Zange |
| 8 | Alvin & Sherry Durham |
| 9 | Jake & Melinda Easler |
| 12 | Walter & Christine Brooks |
| 13 | John & Jennifer Chambers |
| 14 | Benny & Brenda Goss
Mike & Barbara Neel |
| 15 | Johnny & Sissy Crider |
| 17 | Rob & San Hammond |
| 18 | Jim & Joan Byrum |
| 19 | Steve & Melissa Patton |
| 20 | Dave & Jamie Vest
Bruce & Jennifer McCurdy |
| 23 | Heath & Tara Kirby
Eddie & Mary Porter
Doug & Kaye Kiker
Randy & Virginia Ballinger |
| 27 | Ben & Mary Shurett |
| 28 | Lendell & Annette Chappell
Danny & Julie Mewes
Chad & Ashley Wooten |
| 30 | Matt & Ginger Lee
Bryan & Melissa Roe
Kelly & Donna Johnson |
| 31 | Steve & Patti Watkins
David & Stephani Chaney |

Ryleigh's Closet

**Free clothes closet
for those in need**

**Open the 2nd & 4th Mondays
of each month 4-7 p.m.**

**Mentone Community Church
(256) 364-0150**

Social distancing guidelines are in place
and we ask that you use provided hand
sanitizer when you arrive.
Donations are welcome.

Community Calendar

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at 5607 AL Hwy 117, across from Town Hall..

Valley Head Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm at Valley Head Town Hall.

Hammondville Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm at Hammondville Town Hall.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9-11am. New applicants are welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4-7pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

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Birthdays

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 William Blackburn
Alexis Reed
Brittany Harrison
Harold Carden
Jim Byrum
Kathy Carson
April Hurst
David Tucker
Andrew Campbell
Abby Mitchell | 2 Donnie Bell
Kristen Ann Nelson
Amber Stokes
Rickey Williams
Gideon Grisham
Thomas Worthe | 3 Stacy Howard
Aiden Logan
Owen Izell
Lance Elkins
Cameron Hunt
Tressie Thomas | 4 Ed Ringer
Tyler Blansit
Kaleb Underwood | 5 Aidan Dupree | Angela Chambers
Tiffany Coots
Gage Gelfenstein
Steve Sharp
Hayden Williams | 6 Sharron Hatfield
Laiton Keith
Amanda Dyar
Emily Guin
Ryker Chester
Bush Kerby | 7 Kristen Emory
Madisen Smith
Jace Carden
Hoyt Ashley
Ronnie Hulan
Lolah Claire Coots
Gina Martin | 8 Tyler Carden
Garnett Smith
Zachary Wallace
Emily Stallings
Jerry Boatwright
Ryker Abernathy
Jessica Chester | 9 Dallas Lee
Ellie Shugart | Kristy Sweatman
Ashley Jones | 10 Neal Whitt
Stacey Painter
Nancy Frost
Heath Miller
Eli Durham
Layton Williams | 11 Josh Shoults
Robert Green
Kandis Lawton
Preston Owen
Allen Powell
Freda Pike
Ryan Wooten
Avah Poe
Annabelle Ferguson
Shawn Bullock | 12 Beverly Henry
Aaron McKenzie
Bud Atkins
Thad Heinrich
Christina Wise
Chris Collins
Nola Kay Pilotte | 13 Paulette Manning
Anita Johnson | Erin Dean
Alayna Wright | 14 Eric Kirby
Isabella Chaney
Larry Johnson
Emily Wheat
Haleigh Battles | 15 Joe "Dude" Brown
Anna Bailey
Alice Shanklin
Mickey Luck
Fawn Kitchens
Cody Smith | 16 Wynston Keith
Trent Smith
Sarah Chastain
Tyler Godwin
Geiger Guin | 17 Olivia Bowman
Jim Poe
Joseph Brown
Michael Owen
Caiden West
Naomi Chandler
Shaun Wheat
Margie Collins
Ainsley Wright | Addison Wright | 18 Nicole Goldsmith
Bobby Blalock
Sherman Goss | 19 Candace Perkins
Jacie O'Tinger
Judy McMahan
Olivia Elkins | 21 Ryley Smith
Tiffany Gatlin
Justin Smith | 22 Kyle Carden
Anna Garrett
Rosetta McGee
Alvin Durham
Flor Chasity Battles | 23 Jaden Turner
Bence Chambers
Scott Gifford
Melissa Couch
Dowe Forman
Kent Kerby
Anita Hester | 24 Sandy Sharp
Marysa Wigley
Darrin Smith
Tommy Harrison | Lucas Elkins
Grayson Booker
Zakk Johnson
Grayson Stinson
DeLeslyn Stephens | 25 Shannon Tolbert
Sarah Wilcox
Larry Sonsil
Hudson Grider
Dennis Lewis | 26 Shirley Burton
Seth Norman
Shane Grider | 27 Kaie Facteau
Jessica Heinrich
Lindsey Frazier | 28 Ruth Battles | 29 Allie Baker
Lacey Byrum | 30 Stephanie Roberts
Gunner McGinnis
Donna Hairel | 31 Tyler Cooper
Bill Battles
Ashton Carpenter
Nate Bain |
|--|---|---|---|----------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|

Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Jim & Cynthia Connor | 12 Darius & Hope Turner | 23 Kevin & Ashley Gifford | 28 Robert & Annette Johnson |
| 4 Raymond & Heather Evans | 13 Kenny & Doris Chamlee | 24 Taylor & Nancy Brown | 29 Bubba & Martha Browder |
| 10 Tony & Cindy Tipton | 19 Bill & Donna Carman | 25 Greg & Nikki Wheat | |



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will take care of
your loved one every
step of the way.*



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2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cloudland Woman Celebrates 99th Birthday



About 30 neighbors and friends gathered at Cloudland Community Park on Saturday, November 7, to help celebrate Mrs. Isabelle Moody's 99th birthday. Mrs. Moody has been a Cloudland resident for over 50 years. While living in Miami, FL, with her first husband, Ernest Smith, both of her daughters (Sherry Smith Barrat and Susan Smith Sparkes) attended Valley View Ranch Equestrian Camp, and the family fell in love with the area.

After her husband passed away in 1968, Isabelle purchased six acres on the east brow of Lookout Mountain from Mr. Jack Jones and built her first

home there, a vacation cabin. When she remarried in 1991, Isabelle and her new husband, Clarence Ozment "Oz" Moody, began spending six months a year on the mountain. After several years, they decided to move to Cloudland permanently and bought a new home just a mile north on the brow, where Isabelle still resides with her daughter, Susan.

With the challenges presented by the COVID-19 virus situation, the family searched for a way to gather and properly celebrate Isabelle's long and wonderful life, and decided that a drive-by Birthday Parade and outdoor gathering was the safest solution. Thankfully, the weather cooperated with mild temperatures and mostly sunny skies, and the parade started at 4 p.m., headed by Father Bill Winters of St. Joseph On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone, AL.

After driving by, guests were invited to park and gather for cupcakes and a

champagne toast to "Queen Isabelle." All of the guests wore masks and respected the family's social distancing requests, and a great time was had by all.

That night, Isabelle was treated to a special birthday dinner at home, with fresh-from-Florida stone crabs and birthday cake by daughters Susan, Sherry and her husband Tom Barrat, and granddaughter Denise Rivas. Afterwards, they watched over 20 "Happy Birthday" videos sent from out-of-town family and friends.

Isabelle's family wants to thank all her wonderful friends and neighbors for helping them to celebrate their remarkable mother's life! She was surprised and thrilled to see everyone, especially after so many months of isolation caused by Covid-19, and said she had "the most wonderful birthday ever!"

Daughter Susan Sparkes said, "We are so blessed to have such a loving and unique mother, and cherish our lives with her, and lessons learned from her. We are doubly blessed to help her celebrate 99 amazing years on this earth, and hope we can have an even better party for her 100th, next year!"

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Fort Payne, AL #1153219

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LOTS 7 & 7A, COUNTY RD 822
Collinsville, AL #1119184

PRIVATE-HUGE TREES-GREAT VIEW 8.3 acre brow tract. Public water. Paved road. Lookout Mountain-Abundant wildlife perfect cabin site. Only \$55,000.

HIGHWAY 117
Valley Head, AL #1137805

Commercial corner lot with 1.2 acres. Located on the corner of Hwy 117 and School Street and mostly cleared. Needs some fill work but is only \$15,000.

3824 GAULT AVE. N.
Fort Payne, AL #1155138

4000 Sq Ft retail building on Gault Ave. North, Fort Payne. Clear span metal building with glass store front, small office and restroom, central gas heat and AC. 12 x 12 rollup door, 12 ft minimum inside clearance. Paved parking and only \$180,000.

4250 CITADEL ROCK ROAD
Fort Payne, AL #393614

DeSoto Bluffs - West brow of Lookout Mtn. 4.5 acres with Valley and mountains as far as you can see. Plenty of room and Only \$80,000.

4501 COUNTY ROAD 239
Valley Head, AL #1063558

Reduced! 5.14 acre wooded tract on County Road 239 North of Hammondville. Nice quiet house site with large hardwoods and light restrictions. Public water, 300 feet of paved road frontage. \$18,500.

4241 CITADEL ROCK ROAD
Fort Payne, AL #723484

DeSoto Bluffs - Citadel Rock Road - near DeSoto State Park. 1.33 Acre tract with huge stone formations and a view for miles to the west. \$30,000.

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Mentone Bridge Opens to Traffic

The bridge on AL Highway 117 that spans the West Fork of Little River is open to traffic after almost three years of construction. There is still some work to be done, but the use of the new bridge is a great

relief to drivers who felt nervous crossing the former bridge at the same time as another driver (especially a truck driver!). Many accidents occurred over the years on the older bridge, which, as the photo below illustrates, was quite narrow.



Charlie Stone of Blue Sky Photography has been flying his drone to capture aerial views of the bridge as a way of documenting the construction. Above is his most recent image, taken on November 20, 2020.



ALDOT invited Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond to be the first to cross the new bridge. He was driven across by Mentone Police Officer Lamar Bray.

Part of the reason for the long construction phase is that the crew encountered problems at almost every step of the way, including the fact that the rock they drilled into turned out to be much deeper than anticipated.

Rather than being of a generic design, the customized bridge retains some of the charm of the original bridge. This is a result of the passionate involvement of citizens who, over many years, worked with ALDOT at a series of Public Involvement meetings to be sure the structure was aesthetically pleasing and that the river would be protected during its construction. We can all be thankful for their efforts.

Mentone Farmers Market

Every Saturday
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
YEAR ROUND



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Herbs • Breads • Baked Goods & Sweets
Soaps • Teas • Herbal Remedies

In downtown Mentone,
on the square at the Mentone Inn
* No dogs allowed at the Market *

www.facebook.com/MentoneFarmersMarket

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In Memoriam



ROBERTA GALLOWAY CASH
March 23, 1929 – November 13, 2020

On Friday, November 13, 2020 the beloved Mrs. Roberta Galloway Cash passed away in peace at her residence in Mentone with her family by her side.

She was born March 23, 1929, and was a devoted and loving wife, supportive mother, caring and compassionate grandmother and aunt, wonderful sister and gracious friend.

Roberta was preceded in death by her husband and best friend of 67 years, Max Jerome Cash. They had seven children: Anita (Ben) Banks, Fort Payne; Larry (Barbara) Cash, Anchorage, AK; Susan (Larry) Hooks, Mentone; Bruce (Robin) Cash, Austin, TX; Philip Cash, Mentone; Neil Cash (deceased); and Ann (Steve) Harrell, Dalton, GA.

Her grandchildren are: Seth (Amber) Banks, Nashville, TN; Allison (Aaron) Jack, Oklahoma City, OK; Jordan (Lauren) Cash, Vancouver, WA; Kyle Hooks, Huntsville, AL; Cassie (Gary) Parker, Mentone; Katie (Josh) McKay, Austin, TX; Bruce Jr. (Christine) Cash, Austin, TX; Lydia Cash, Dumfries, VA; Lindsey (John) Reiman, Austin, TX; Matthew Cash (Rebecca), Austin, TX; and Corey Cash, Austin, TX.

Her great-grandchildren are Scarlett Avery Banks (deceased); Bowman, Lincoln and Barrett Jack; J.J., Cash, Mary Kate and Anna Brooke McKay; Quinn and Callie Cash; and Maxwell "Max" Parker.

Siblings of Roberta are Janice Galloway, Max Galloway (deceased), Patricia "Marcie" Galloway Chumley (deceased), and Jerry Galloway (deceased).

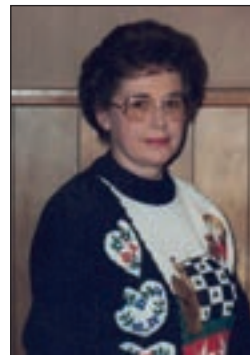
Roberta's gentleness, grace, and kindness toward others was her trademark. Her influence on family and community are profound and meaningful. She had a God given gift of sharing love to people and always put others before herself in thought and deed. Her most distinguishing characteristic was her absolute commitment and devotion to the love of her life, Max. Her favorite memories were those spent visiting the lakes that Max designed because of the peacefulness and remoteness of the place as well as the opportunity it represented for quiet times with family and friends. Her secret to a long and happy life was simple, "Read your Bible and pray every day."

Roberta spent her life as a dedicated, faithful and loving Christian. She had a long-standing relationship with God and she inspired many with her positive, cheerful outlook in happy anticipation of heaven. Family was the pivotal essence of Roberta's life. She was proud and honored to be the matriarch, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her large family. She was happiest when she was surrounded by her favorite people... Roberta loved and adored her family. If you were lucky enough to be present when she gazed into their faces, the pure joy radiating from her would blind you. Roberta wanted nothing more than for them to have a wonderful life. She treasured her family and embraced every moment with them.

In addition to her devotion to her family and community over the years, Roberta enjoyed gardening, sewing, and reading. She loved to cook "meals from her garden" for her large family. Her hands were rarely still. She was kind and helpful and always influenced others by her example, holding the highest integrity in family and in life. She had great ambitions for her children and sought inspiration in the pages of her Bible.

She quickly learned to use the computer and as a Mom and Grandmom, she communicated via email to her family. She was extraordinary in her pursuit of knowledge and loved the internet for researching interests and shopping online. She was intellectually inspiring, and known for her unwavering support and encouragement to others to achieve their goals through education. "Your education is not complete until you have a college degree" are the words her children heard their entire youth.

Roberta will forever be fondly remembered for her beautiful smile, gentle eyes, caring heart, loving embrace and unconditional love. Although our hearts are heavy, we will celebrate her life and find comfort that she is in heaven watching over all of us and is now at rest in God's arms. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. This gentle, loving, caring and wonderful woman has left a permanent mark etched on our hearts and will be supremely missed. Her life was a living example of her favorite Bible verse, Proverbs 3:5-6-"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths". Donations in her honor to Mentone Community Church are appreciated.



MARIE S. DILLENBECK
January 12, 1941 – November 2, 2020

On November 2, 2020, our Lord and Savior called home his disciple Marie S. Dillenbeck, 79, after a long bout with Alzheimer's. She has been made whole again in heaven where we will one day see her again. Marie was a longtime resident of Mentone, Alabama where she enjoyed where she enjoyed the quiet life and the beauty all around her.

She is survived by her sister, Lois Waggy; brothers, Wayne Sheldon (Peggy) and Dale Sheldon (Tessie); children, Randy Green (Brenda), Teresa Marie Brown, Lorelei Anne Lauro (John), Leilani Beth Dillenbeck, and Joey Dillenbeck (Kumi); grandchildren, Brian Green (Devin), Tammy Seale (Brian), Shannon Lynn Mitchell, Elizabeth Easterwood, Katherine Mitchell (Kevin), Jolee Brown, Robert Brown, Sarah Elizabeth Lauro, and Kristen Michelle Lauro; and great-grandchildren, Arya and Dakota Green, Benjamin and Jacob Seale, Jayden, Hannah, and Kaleb Easterwood, Morgan and Mark Mitchell, Josephine Brown, and Magnolia MCGuinn.

The family suggests that donations be made to either a local charity or to the Alzheimer's cause to find a cure to end this devastating disease.

For many years, Marie assisted Groundhog editor Evelyn Graves. "I've known sweet Marie since she moved to Mentone," said Dowe Foreman. "She was such a kind, loving woman. She had a heart of pure warmth and love. She rescued many dogs and cats through the years. She kept some or found them a good home. She would give a magazine subscription to *Angels on Earth* to some of us each year at Christmas. I found out that she did this to many of her friends. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was truly one of the kindest souls I've ever had the pleasure to know."



NANCY LEONA PRINCE
June 30, 1935–November 22, 2020



Mrs. Nancy Leona Smith Prince, age 85, of Menlo, GA, died Sunday, November 22, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome, GA.

Mrs. Prince was born June 30, 1935, in Summerville, GA, daughter of the late Albert Wiley and Maggie Lou Brown Smith. She was a member of Chelsea Baptist Church, and prior to her retirement, was employed with Best Manufacturing.

She was also a member of the Best Silver Club.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Curtis Prince; a daughter, Pamela Jean Prince; brother, David Smith; sisters, Lula Mae Gentry, Inez Brown, Janice Smith, and Shirl Rabdeau; grandchildren, Kenneth Daniel Prince, Regina Faye Prince, Gavin Ray Lemons, Darlia Minard, and Josh Elrod.

Survivors include her sons, Kenneth Walter (Nita) Prince, Tommy Curtis (Debbie) Prince, Randy Albert (Jan) Prince, Timmy Leon (Robin) Prince, and Jimmy Don (Lisa) Prince; daughters, Linda Sue (Frank) Smith, and Sandra (Bobby) Lemons; brothers, Wiley (Marsha) Smith, George (Mary Sue) Smith, Junior (Shirley) Smith; sisters, Carolyn Hanks, Minnie Lee Smith, Betty (Kelly) Wentz, Beth (Jack) Wentz; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Graveside services for Mrs. Prince were held Friday, November 27, 2020, at Alpine Cemetery with Rev. Bobby Lemons officiating. Pallbearers were family. Honorary pallbearers were the members of Best Silver Club, Chelsea Baptist Church Ladies' Sunday School Class, and special friend, Linda Money.

In Memoriam



ELIZABETH HOWARD

September 12, 1926 - October 29, 2020

Elizabeth "Lib" Simmons Howard, local historian and writer, died on October 29, 2020 at the age of 94. She was a long-time resident of Fort Payne and lived for the past year at Crossville Health & Rehabilitation.

Lib graduated from Gaston High School and attended Snead Junior College. She then went to the University of Alabama where she graduated Phi Beta

Kappa in 1948 with a BA degree majoring in English and a double minor in history and journalism. She loved the University of Alabama, following their football program avidly for the rest of her life, and wore her Phi Beta Kappa necklace continually until her death.

Lib married her beloved husband, Max, of Crossville, while she was still in college. They settled in Fort Payne where Max pursued a law career and later served for many years as president of Fort Payne Bank. Lib taught school in the Fort Payne city and DeKalb County school systems for 13 years. Her students at Fischer still remember her fondly. After 14 years, Lib and Max were blessed with their only daughter, Beth Elaine, and Lib retired from teaching.

She then began her second career (and passion) of writing. While still a college student Lib had assisted her professor, James B. Sellers, in writing the first of two volumes of his book, *History of the University of Alabama*. Her contribution was to write the section on sports since Sellers was not a sports fan. Later, her first complete book was *The Vagabond Dreamer*, published in 1976, which told the story of Milford W. Howard, who built Howard's Chapel in Mentone. Lib eventually wrote and had published nearly twenty books mostly on local history. Two of those books, *The Vagabond Dreamer* and *The Legend of Buster Duggan* are now in their second printing. Lib was editor of several volumes of *The DeKalb Legend*, trustee and editor of *Landmark News*, and editor of *Who Was Who in DeKalb County*. She was a co-founder of the Landmarks of DeKalb County Museum.

Her awards included the Landmarks Service Award, the Award of Merit and the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Historical Commission, a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Rose Award.

She is survived by her grandson, Max James Cooper (Raleigh), and great-grandsons, Uriah James Cooper and Koran Wyatt Cooper of Opelika. She is also survived by nieces, Margaret Kerns Weaver of West Chester, PA; Susan Simmons Wright of Rainbow City, AL; Dr. Jeanne Simmons Clayton of Hillsborough, NC; Marsha Hooks Polivnic of Clearwater, FL; and nephews, Kenneth A. Hooks, Jr. of Greenbriar, TN, John Mack Simmons of Rainbow City, Steven Howard of Auburn, AL, Richard Barnhart Howard of Pinetop, AZ; and Mark Wayne Howard of Gadsden, AL.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John M. and Ethel Gilchrist Simmons; her brother, John Mack Simmons (Elaine Tarpley Roberts); her sisters, Eleanor Frances Kerns (Wayne L. Kerns); and Maurine Ethel Hooks (Kenneth A. Hooks, Sr.); her husband, Max James Howard; her daughter, Beth Elaine Howard Cooper; and her nephews, James Michael Howard and Scott Jerome Simmons.

NICKY CARTER

December 22, 1955–November 21, 2020

Nicky Carter, age 64, of Cloudland, GA, died Saturday, November 21, 2020 at Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome, GA.

Mr. Carter was born December 22, 1955, in Rome, the son of Jessie Cumming. He was a devout Christian, and a veteran of the U.S. Army who loved hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jessie Cumming; a sister, Glenda Luttrell; and brothers, Harold Williams and Andy Williams.

Survivors include his children, Cassey Robinson and Brien Robinson; sister, Anne Fowler; brother, Homer Williams; and 12 grandchildren.

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